

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, INC.

THE HAROLD PRATT HOUSE

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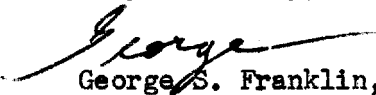
Dear Allen:

One of the most interesting meetings we have had here in a long time was a talk by Mr. Joseph Buttinger on the situation in South Vietnam. He had spent eight weeks there, from October to December of last year, for the International Rescue Committee.

He had come to Indo-China with a point of view very much akin to the Alsops' but returned infinitely more optimistic. Leo Cherne, of the International Rescue Committee, considers Buttinger a very good and reliable observer. It seemed to me that it might be well worthwhile for you or someone on your staff to talk with Buttinger.

I am enclosing a digest of his meeting here, as well as a brief biographical sketch, so that you can judge for yourself whether it would be.

Very sincerely,

  
George S. Franklin, Jr.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
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1/1/21

JOSEPH BUTTINGER

Joseph Buttinger has just returned from eight weeks in South Vietnam where he established a relief operation for refugee intellectuals from the North on behalf of the International Rescue Committee, American relief organization aiding anti-Communist refugees. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of this organization since 1940. While in Vietnam, he was in close contact with Premier Ngo Dinh Diem and the officials of his Government as well as with the American officials in Vietnam and with the refugee population which he was attempting to assist. He travelled throughout South Vietnam and spoke with numerous officials and with the population throughout the country.

Since Mr. Buttinger's return from Vietnam at the end of December, he has published a number of articles dealing with Vietnam and has been engaged in attempting to secure Government support for a policy of aid to the Nationalist Government of Vietnam under Premier Diem.

Mr. Buttinger is an American citizen of Austrian origin. He came to the United States in 1939 after the German-Austrian Anschluss forced him into exile. From 1935 to 1938 he had been chairman of the underground movement of the Social Democratic Party, which fought unsuccessfully to prevent the seizure of Austria by the Nazis.

His book, "In the Twilight of Socialism", published in 1953 by Frederick Praeger, Inc., is a history of the Austrian struggle against Nazism and at the same time a study of the crisis of the European Socialist labor movement. The book has also been published in Germany and the French edition will be brought out by Gallimard in Paris this spring.

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